

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### Notice of Intent To Extend and Revise a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request an extension for and revision to a currently approved information collection, the annual survey of farmer cooperatives, as authorized in the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received on or before April 21, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Charles A. Kraenzle, Director, Statistics and Technical Services Staff, RBS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, STOP 3256, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-3256, Telephone (202) 720-3189.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Annual Survey of Farmer Cooperatives.

*OMB Number:* 0570-0007.

*Expiration Date of Approval:* September 30, 1997.

*Type of Request:* Intent to extend and revise a currently approved information collection.

*Abstract:* The primary objective of Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) is to promote understanding, use and development of the cooperative form of business as a viable option for enhancing the income of agricultural producers and other rural residents.

Cooperative Services' (CS) direct role is providing knowledge to improve the effectiveness and performance of farmer cooperative businesses through technical assistance, research, information, and education. The annual survey of farmer cooperatives collects basic statistics on cooperative business volume, net income, members, financial status, employees, and other selected information to support CS' objective and role. Cooperative statistics are published in various reports and used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperative leaders, educators, and others in planning and promoting the cooperative form of business.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 29 minutes per response.

*Respondents:* Farmer cooperatives.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 3,082.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* 1.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 1,487 Hours.

Copies of this information collection and repeated instructions can be obtained from Sam Spencer, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, at (202) 720-9588.

#### Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to: Sam Spencer, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, STOP 0743, Washington, DC 20250-0743. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All

comments will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: February 5, 1997.

Dayton J. Watkins,  
*Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-3846 Filed 2-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY:** Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of cancellation of Board meeting.

**SUMMARY:** At the December 11, 1996, regular meeting of the Rural Telephone Bank (Bank) Board of Directors, the Board established February 19 and 20, 1997, as the dates for its next staff briefing and regular Board meeting, respectively. The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the February 19 and 20 meetings have been rescheduled. The Bank will publish notice of the rescheduled meeting dates in the Federal Register, and the Bank will send the stockholders written notification of these dates.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Peters, Assistant Governor, Rural Telephone Bank, telephone (202) 720-9554.

Dated: February 10, 1997.

Wally Beyer,  
*Governor, Rural Telephone Bank.*

[FR Doc. 97-3989 Filed 2-12-97; 4:25 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-M

### Rural Utilities Service

#### Rural Telephone Bank

#### Amendment to the Rural Electrification Act's "Buy American" Provision

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service and Rural Telephone Bank, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of Amendment to the Rural Electrification Act's "Buy American" Provision.

**SUMMARY:** The Uruguay Round Agreements Act, (108 Stat. 4954, Public Law 103-465, December 8, 1994), amends the "Buy American" provision, (7 U.S.C. 903 note) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) (the "RE Act"). In the provision, as amended by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, the